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**Newsletter**

**Number 35**

**3 December 2011**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

**Thanks**

.. To those parents who assisted with preparation of art portfolios.  
.. Marie and Rowan Clements who kindly gave their time this week to judge portfolios.  
.. Those who helped with transport and supervision to this week's Interschool Athletics Competition.

**People of the week**

.. our art exhibitors.  
.. our spelling bee finalists.  
.. those senior children nominated for the citizenship cup - voting has taken place and indicates a very good level of student support for all candidates.  
.. Jenny Wiegersma, Mary Sissons and Wendy Francis for helping with costumes for the School Production.  
.. Andrew and Brad Martin, Caitlyn Redwood entered the School team at the Whangarei and Bay of Islands Calf Club Days and won trophies at both. Good luck to all the kids this weekend at the Whangarei A&P Show.  
.. Matthew Martin for receiving "Player of the Season" for Hikurangi Rippa Rugby. Well Done!

**Surveys**

A special thanks to those parents and children who have completed our on-line surveys. Currently we have about 20-30 percent response but were hoping for more. Consequently we have extended the survey completion date to **Monday 5 December**. If you have not yet done so please go to the following links and enter your responses. Only takes a few minutes and will provide us with some useful information moving forward.

**Parent survey**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TFQ8D8C>

**Student survey**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G5FCSZ9>

**Parent Helpers Morning Tea**

Parents / caregivers who have helped at school in any way this year are

invited to a morning tea to be held in the school hall on Thursday 8 December starting 10:30am.

This is our chance to thank you for the difference you have made to our school.

To help with catering please give Helen a call next week if you think you might be in attendance.

### **Summer Effect - impact on student achievement**

There is some research (and plenty of anecdotal evidence) to confirm that achievement levels for many children (not all) tapers off over the holiday period. Our test data over many years has indicated this - significant lifts by year's end, with a drop back in achievement when we test again in March of the year that follows. This is actually an international phenomenon. Although it is not altogether clear how (or even if) there are things we can do to mitigate this effect, some people believe that if children keep to a pattern of regular (and monitored) reading over the holidays this "summer effect" can be lessened. We are keen to hear from parents who ..

.. would like to have their children involved in summer reading programme

.. KNOW that they are in a position to ensure that REGULAR reading (books provided) takes place

A more detailed letter will be sent home next week for you to consider whether or not you would like your child(ren) involved. If you do not receive a letter or would like to further discuss please give Kevin a call.

### **PMP**

PMP is coming to an end for the year. Thank you so much to parents who have helped with sessions this year. The teachers and children really appreciate your dedication and efforts.

### **Forthcoming dates**

7 / 8 December	Junior production (2:30 PM both days)
8 December	Parent helpers / farewell morning tea
12 December	Team Athletics Day (sponsor Whangarei Physiotherapy)
13 December	School prize giving (6:30 PM)
14 December	Reports issued
15/16 December	Year 3 camp
16 December	Final day of term
2 February 2012	First day back 2012

### **Junior Production Tangroa's Gift**

Children from Rooms 1-5 will be performing this Maori myth in the hall for parents and families at 2.00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

### **Year 3 Camp - Kayaks**

We are planning on kayaking at the Year 3 camp on the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> December. At this stage we have the loan of 11 kayaks but require at least 3 more. Thank you to those families who have already offered. Sue Abbott will be able to transport the kayaks to and from the venue.

We are also in need of some small children's lifejackets. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

### **Classes for 2012**

Class lists for 2012 will be displayed on the hall notice board on the afternoon of 8 December.

### **Prizegiving**

Please keep the evening of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December free for our annual prize giving. This evening will start 6.30pm and will conclude approx 8.30pm with a supper. Grandparents are welcome. Attendance is optional for year 5 children.

### **Early arrival at school**

Please ensure you do not drop your child at school before 8:00 AM in the morning. We can offer some level of supervision beyond this time but would prefer arrivals post 8:15 AM if possible please.

### **Home Garden Update**

A reminder that gardens will be visited on Saturday. Please ensure ..

.. that you have tied a balloon to your gatepost

.. that your garden is well sign posted

.. that dogs are tied up

It is an all day job for our judges and it isn't easy to know the time of your visit. **Please also note that where a consent to visit form was not returned your child's garden will not be visited.**

The children met again this week to talk about what needed to be done to get their gardens ready and so should have plenty of ideas.

### **Leaving Books**

Parents of year 8 students are asked to get leaving books to school as soon as possible please and no later than 9 December. Thank you in anticipation parents for assisting in their purchase of a suitable book. The vouchers are redeemable at most book stores. Books will be officially presented at prize giving on 13 December.

### **The Mobile Era Clinic**

.. will be outside the Bush Road medical centre 8:30 to 3:30 Wednesday 7 December. No appointments necessary. Pre-schoolers can also be checked.

### **Drink Bottles**

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school each day to place on their desk. Water is best.

### **School Contributions**

Those who have not paid their term 4 school contribution are asked to do so next week please. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or to discuss alternative payment arrangements. **A small number of families also owe for activity or technology fees from earlier in the year and we are keen to receive these also please.** We are happy to have automatic deductions into our account where this works best for parents.

### **Garden Club Co-ordinator**

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping out next year please contact the school office. This may suit a grandparent, neighbour who has an interest in gardening. Only couple hours needed each week to co-ordinate the children and plants!

### **Fundraising Chocolate**

Still money & chocolates outstanding from a few families, please if you have not returned your chocolates or money yet, please do so on Monday as the fundraiser is now being finalised. Thank you to all parents & families who have sold chocolates and returned to school.

### **Community Notices**

**For Rent** – Cosy 2 bedroom house on one acre, Ruatangata area. On bus route to Matarau School & High Schools. Pets ok. Available January 2012, \$260pw. Phone Kat 433 5149.

**Wanted** - To buy sheep, ph Steve 4335061.

**Firewood for Sale** – Split gum, \$65/sqm; Mixed bag, \$55/sqm. Tel Justin 433 5083

**For Sale** - 1999 Honda Foreman – Good Condition – Ideal for Beach – Ph Edwin 0274 770 191

**Kidz Camp** - Marsden Bay Holiday Camp, Jan 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, wide variety of activities. Ph Helena 094447456/0273806323 or [info@marsdenbay.com](mailto:info@marsdenbay.com)

**Summer Camps** – Outdoor activities. For more information visit [www.scriptureunion.org.nz](http://www.scriptureunion.org.nz) or ph 0800 7822677.

**Paihia Oceans Kids Swim** - Saturday 10 December, 10.30am, Paihia Beach. To register or for more info visit [www.oceankids.co.nz](http://www.oceankids.co.nz).

**Kamo Swim Club** – Urgently require a small clear kids swimming pool to use. Please ph Chris Sapwell 0272768837.

**Holeecow** – Drama classes and acting workshop holiday programme. Whangarei & McLeods Bay. For more info email [maria@holeecow.co.nz](mailto:maria@holeecow.co.nz) or visit [www.holeecow.co.nz](http://www.holeecow.co.nz).

**Kamo Late Night** – Late night shopping in Kamo on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December until 7.30pm. Live coverage from More FM, various events including fancy dress contest for under 10's etc.

### **Departing staff**

It is with considerable sadness that we advise that Miss Hewitt and Miss Downey will not be teaching at Matarau School next year. Both of these teachers have given excellent service to our school and we are very sad to see them go. Miss Downey (currently covering for Mrs Donaldson) has won a permanent teaching position at Otaike Valley School and enters a new and exciting stage in her career.

Miss Hewitt will be moving to Auckland to be with her partner and has won a job at Glendowie Primary. We wish both of these special people the very best for the future and assure them that they are well and truly cemented into the Matarau School Hall of Fame. Thank you for your dedication and loyalty to our school and for the many lives you have touched for the better. Your new schools are very lucky indeed. **We will be bidding formal farewell to these teachers at our Parent Helpers morning tea next week (Thursday 8 December) and so if you would like to join us, or if you would like to take a moment of your own time to wish these teachers well, please do so.**

#### Final Thought

"The secret of success is making your vocation your vacation" Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Regards

Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

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## Compost for Sale

Fonterra have very generously offered to donate compost for the school garden. They have also donated a large amount for us to sell as a fundraiser for the school again!!!



The compost is made from whey mixed with sawdust, and is GREAT FOR THE GARDEN. Whey provides the soil with minerals such as magnesium, potassium and protein and also improves the overall texture.

We will be selling it for \$30 / trailer load which can be picked up from the yard on Jordan Valley Road. **Payment to the School Office by Friday 9 December. A receipt will be issued which needs to be presented on pickup to receive your compost.**

Pickup will be available on 10<sup>th</sup> December, between 1.30pm and 4 pm.

Contact Lisa Jones on 435 6199 or 027 258 9663 for more information. Thank you.

I ..... would like to purchase ..... trailer load(s) of whey compost.

I have enclosed .....\$.....

#### **Directions.**

From Matarau School, turn right onto Rushbrook Rd, go to end, turn right onto Jordan Valley Rd, and turn into first driveway on left.